wave
LISTEN TO ME!

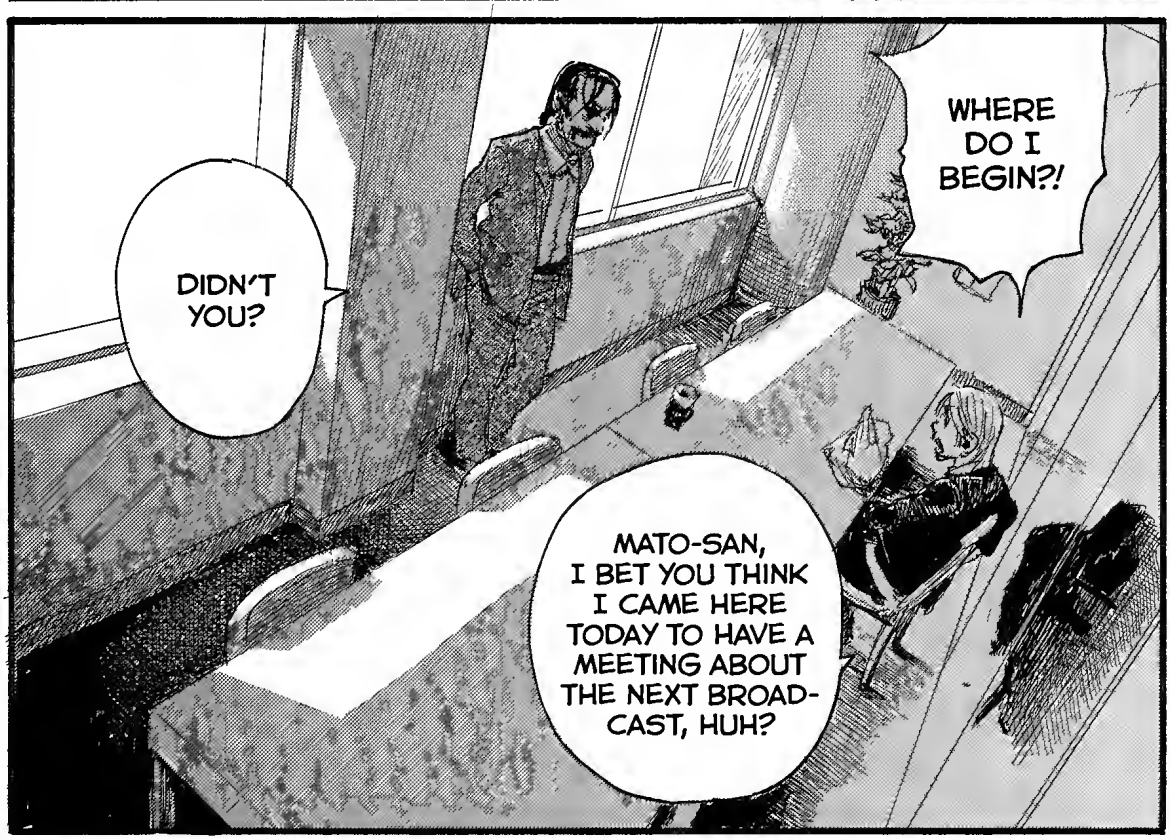
Chapter 27 「THINGS WON'T PLAY OUT.」

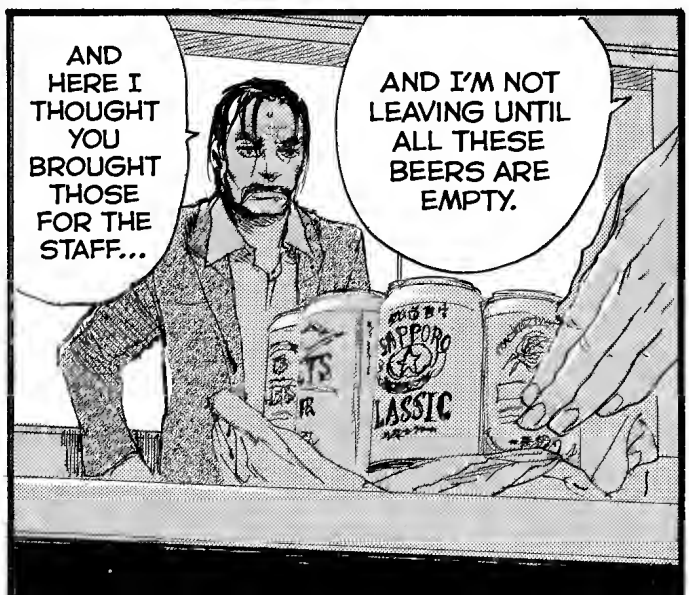
HIROAKI SAMURA

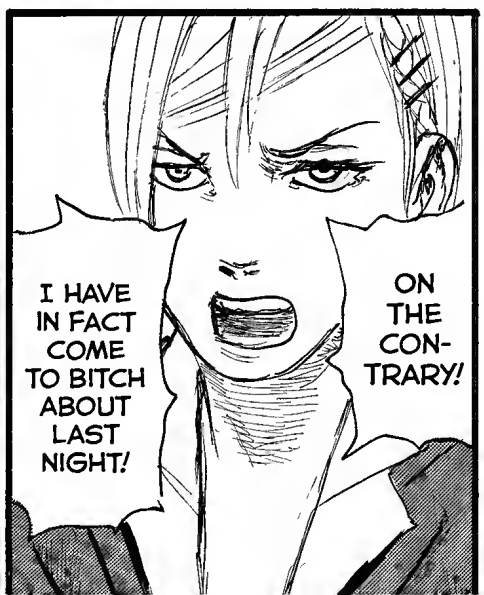
THE STORY SO FAR

UNDER THE GUIDANCE OF MATO, AN FM STATION WORKER, MINARE KODA HAS MADE HER DEBUT AS A RADIO DJ. WITH HER THIRD SHOW UNDER HER BELT AND RATINGS HIGH, ONE NIGHT, SHE'S CALLED OUT BY HER SENIOR DJ, CHISHIRO, WHO PROVOCATIVELY LECTURES HER ON THE DARK FUTURE OF THE RADIO INDUSTRY. MEANWHILE, AT VOYAGER, THE OWNER RETURNS TO WORK, AND MAKIE IS ALLOWED TO STAY ON BOARD.

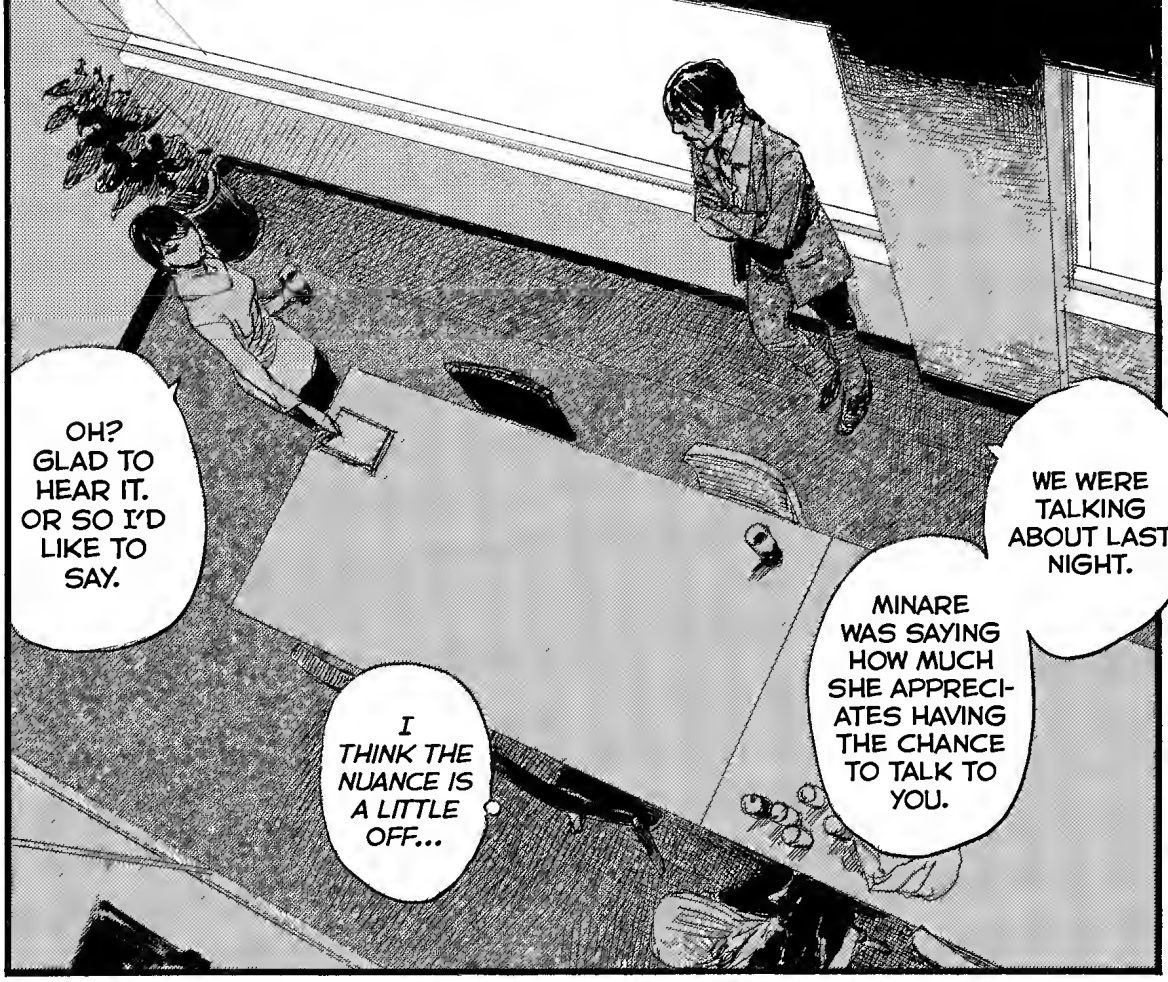
THIS IS A WORK OF FICTION. ANY RESEMBLANCES TO REAL PEOPLE, GROUPS, AND PLACES ARE PURELY COINCIDENTAL.







AFTER HAVING NOT ONLY ME, BUT MY ENTIRE HOMETOWN OF KUSHIRO BADMOUTHED ON END...
...BUT HUMILIATION IS AN INVALUABLE EMOTION.
SHE'S SERIOUSLY DRINKING...
MATO-SAN, IT MIGHT BE ODD FOR AN UNDERLING WITH NO TRACK RECORD LIKE ME TO SAY THIS...
MIZUHO-CHAN ALSO SAID SHE WANTS TO BECOME A DIRECTOR AND MAKE A SHOW SO GRAND THAT CHISHIRO-SAN WILL GO THROUGH MENOPAUSE FROM THE SHOCK.
...FOR THE FIRST TIME, I WAS FILLED WITH THE DRIVE TO MAKE THAT LATE-NIGHT SLOT SO POPULAR THAT CHISHIRO-SAN WILL DIE A BITTER, REGRETFUL DEATH.
IN THE END, I'D SAY IT WAS A WORTHWHILE EVENING.
WHOSE MENOPAUSE IS WORTHWHILE, YOU SAY?


WE WERE TALKING ABOUT LAST NIGHT.
MINARE WAS SAYING HOW MUCH SHE APPRECIATES HAVING THE CHANCE TO TALK TO YOU.
I THINK THE NUANCE IS A LITTLE OFF...
OH? GLAD TO HEAR IT. OR SO I'D LIKE TO SAY.

TO BE HONEST, I OVERDID IT AND DON'T REMEMBER MUCH OF LAST NIGHT.
A FEW WORDS I DO REMEMBER...
OH, SORRY. DON'T LET ME GET IN THE WAY OF YOUR MEETING.
JUST THINK OF ME AS ONE OF THE BRONZE STATUES OF NUSAMAI BRIDGE.
YOU TOTALLY DO REMEMBER!
MATO-SAN.
HAVE YOU THOUGHT OF A SHOW PLAN YET?
...ARE HAG, FLAT-CHESTED, AND...
BITCH...

I *THOUGHT* THE BAR RAISED A LITTLE HIGH FOR A SPEAKER!
FROM WHAT MIZUHO TELLS ME, IT'S TYPICAL FOR THE DIRECTOR OR WRITER TO THINK UP SHOW PLANS.
...WHY ARE YOU PUTTING THE SQUEEZE ON ME LIKE A HOMEROOM TEACHER AFTER SUMMER BREAK?
YOU HAD PLENTY OF TIME TO DO SO.
FOR REAL?! ALL RIGHT!
WELL, I DO HAVE ABOUT TEN OR SO IDEAS STOCKED UP.
GUESS YOU DON'T WEAR THAT FLASHY SUIT FOR NOTHING!
SILENCE, STATUE!
THAT'S NOT ALWAYS THE CASE.
Wave, Listen to Me segment proposal
SINCERELY ANSWER 20 RELATIONSHIP QUESTIONS WHILE CLOSE ENOUGH TO SEE A WILD BROWN BEAR...
DO WE REALLY NEED THIS LOCATION IF WE'RE AUDIO ONLY?!
WE COULD DO IT WITH SOUND EFFECTS IN THE STUDIO, BUT WHAT'LL WE DO IF THE LISTENERS FIND OUT THERE'S NO ACTUAL TENSION?
NOTHING! WHO GIVES A SHIT IF THEY FIND OUT?!
...DO YOU VALUE LIFE AT ALL?

THAT KINDA STUFF'S ONLY ENTERTAINING WHEN YOU STACK IT UP AGAINST HOW SOMEONE NORMALLY ACTS.
I FIND MYSELF FANTASIZING ABOUT WHAT SPEAKERS WILL SAY WHEN I PUSH THEM TO THE END OF THEIR WITS.
WHEN YOU'VE BEEN IN THE BUSINESS AS LONG AS I HAVE, YOU GET BORED WITH REGULAR OLD RADIO...
BROWN BEAR RESEARCH CLUB
It's relatively safe.
I KNOW OF A CRUISE NEAR RAUSU WHERE YOU CAN WATCH BROWN BEARS ALONG THE COAST.
SILENCE, STATUE!
TAKE THIS SERIOUSLY!
LESSON: NO ONE WILL GIVE SERIOUS ADVICE TO A WOMAN WHO'S DRINKING IN THE MIDDLE OF THE DAY.
WHAT'S WRONG WITH THAT?
...THEN I'LL JUST *BECOME* THAT PERSON!
IF SOMEONE LIKE ME WHO DOESN'T EVEN HAVE AN ESTABLISHED PERSONA DOES IT...
I DID MAKE A PAGE, BUT...
OH, THAT. WELL...
OH, YEAH. MIZUHO SAID SOMETHING ABOUT YOU WANTING TO USE YOUR INTRODUCTION PAGE TO GATHER SEGMENT IDEAS FROM THE LISTENERS.
HOW'S THAT GOING? DID YOU MAKE ONE YET?

GIVE ME YOUR HONEST OPINION.

ALL RIGHT, THEN.

FOR STARTERS, THE PHOTO SUCKS.

Minare Koda

"Looking for topics you'd li

Sex	Female
D.O.B	November 4
Zodiac	Scorpio
Blood Type	O
Birthplace	Hokkaido
Profile	Also works at a soup curry restaurant in Susukino, Voyag Dreamland of Bread and Curry **Motto**: Even fish flee from wate too pristine.
Shows	Wave, Listen to Me (Sat. 3:30 am
Affiliated Sites	Voyager: A Dreamland of Bre

IT'S LIKE ONE OF DAISUKE MIURA'S* SELFIES.

THEY SENT ME THIS FAMILY PHOTO WHICH WAS TAKEN BACK WHEN I WAS IN HIGH SCHOOL.

AFTER CROPPING EVERYONE ELSE OUT, THIS IS WHAT I WAS LEFT WITH.

And who's that in front of you?

WHEN WAS THIS TAKEN, ANYWAY?

I THOUGHT IT'D BE A GOOD IDEA TO USE ONE I LOOK YOUNG IN, SO WHEN I ASKED MY FOLKS TO MAIL ME PHOTOS TO PICK FROM...

*A JAPANESE BASEBALL PLAYER WITH A HISTORY OF TAKING BIZARRE SELFIES ALL FROM THE SAME ANGLE.

IT'S ABOUT AS IRRITATING TO LOOK AT AS A VOCALIST'S BAND POSTER LOOKING FOR GUITAR, BASS, AND DRUMS.

I WENT WITH THE GREATEST COMMON DIVISOR SO AS NOT TO HINDER THE CREATIVE SCOPE OF IDEAS...

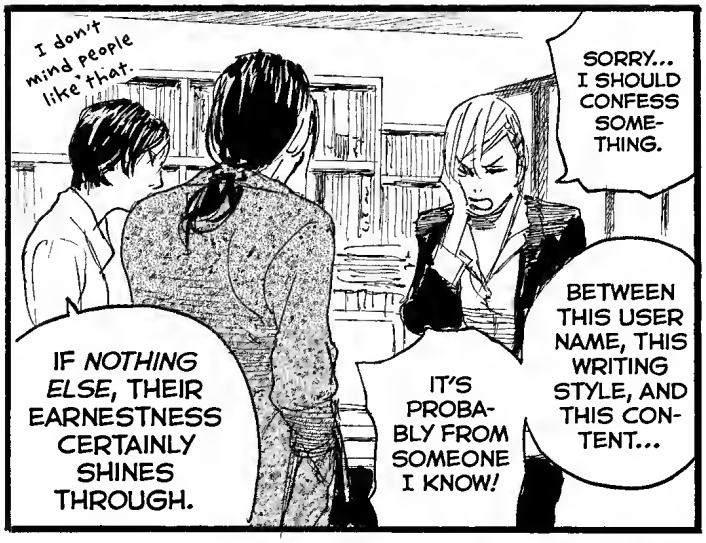
Minare Ko

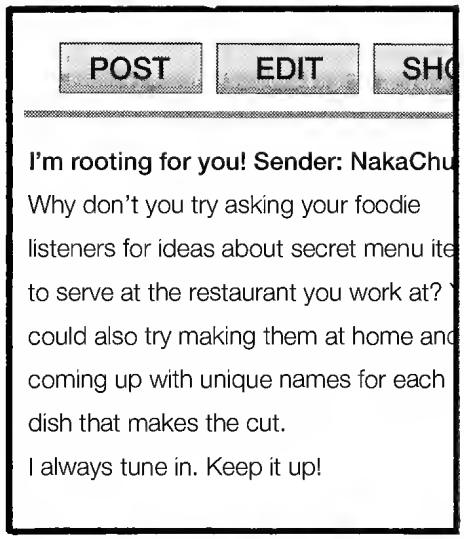
"Looking for topics you'd like to hea..."

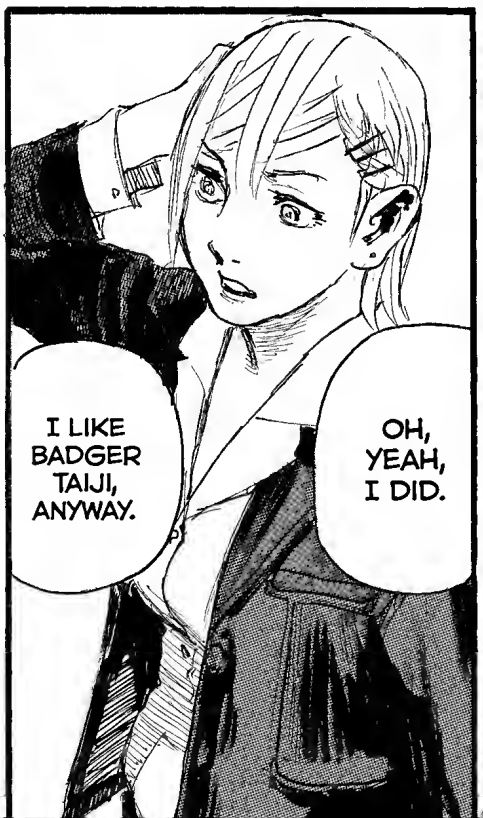
Sex	Female
	November 4
	Scorpio

IS THIS SENTENCE HERE YOUR AT-TEMPT AT SOLICITING IDEAS?

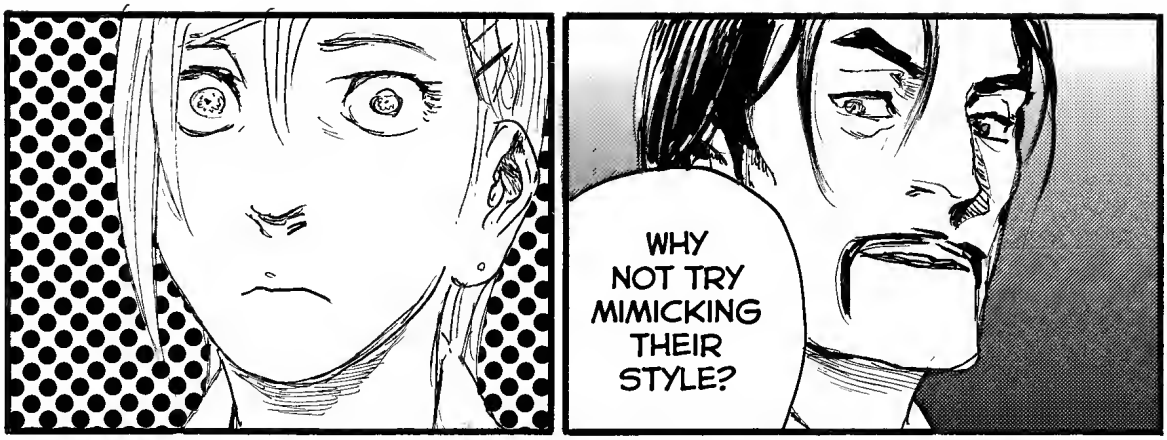
...AND? GET ANY SUGGESTIONS?
AH, HA, HA, HA. JUST ONE...

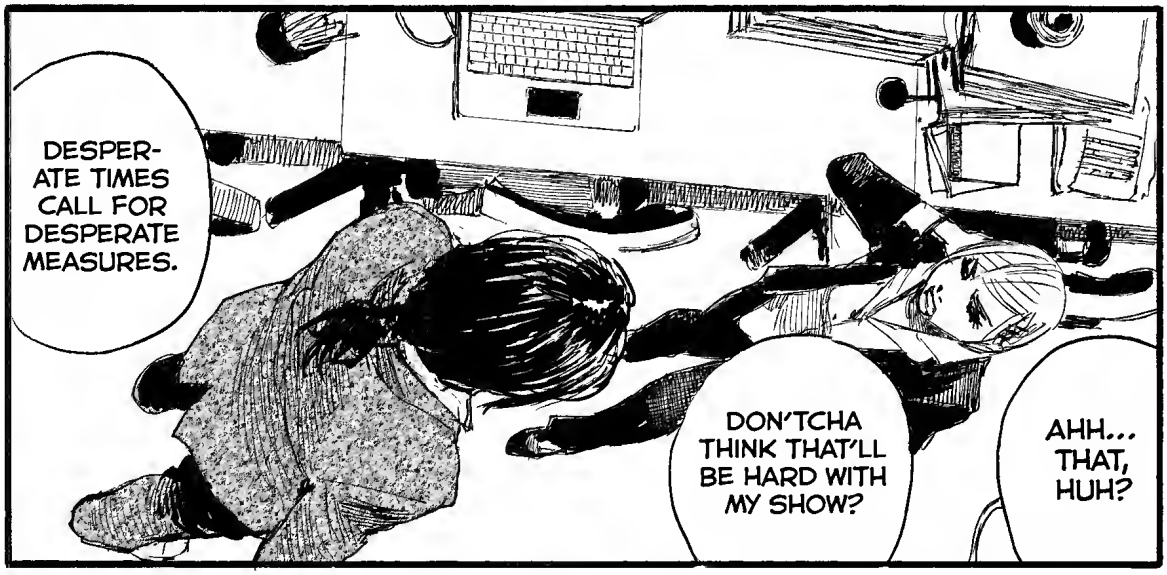

I don't mind people like that.
SORRY... I SHOULD CONFESS SOME-THING.
BETWEEN THIS USER NAME, THIS WRITING STYLE, AND THIS CON-TENT...
IT'S PROBA-BLY FROM SOMEONE I KNOW!
IF NOTHING ELSE, THEIR EARNESTNESS CERTAINLY SHINES THROUGH.


POST
EDIT
SH
I'm rooting for you! Sender: NakaChu
Why don't you try asking your foodie listeners for ideas about secret menu ite to serve at the restaurant you work at? could also try making them at home and coming up with unique names for each dish that makes the cut.
I always tune in. Keep it up!


I LIKE BADGER TAIJI, ANYWAY.
OH, YEAH, I DID.

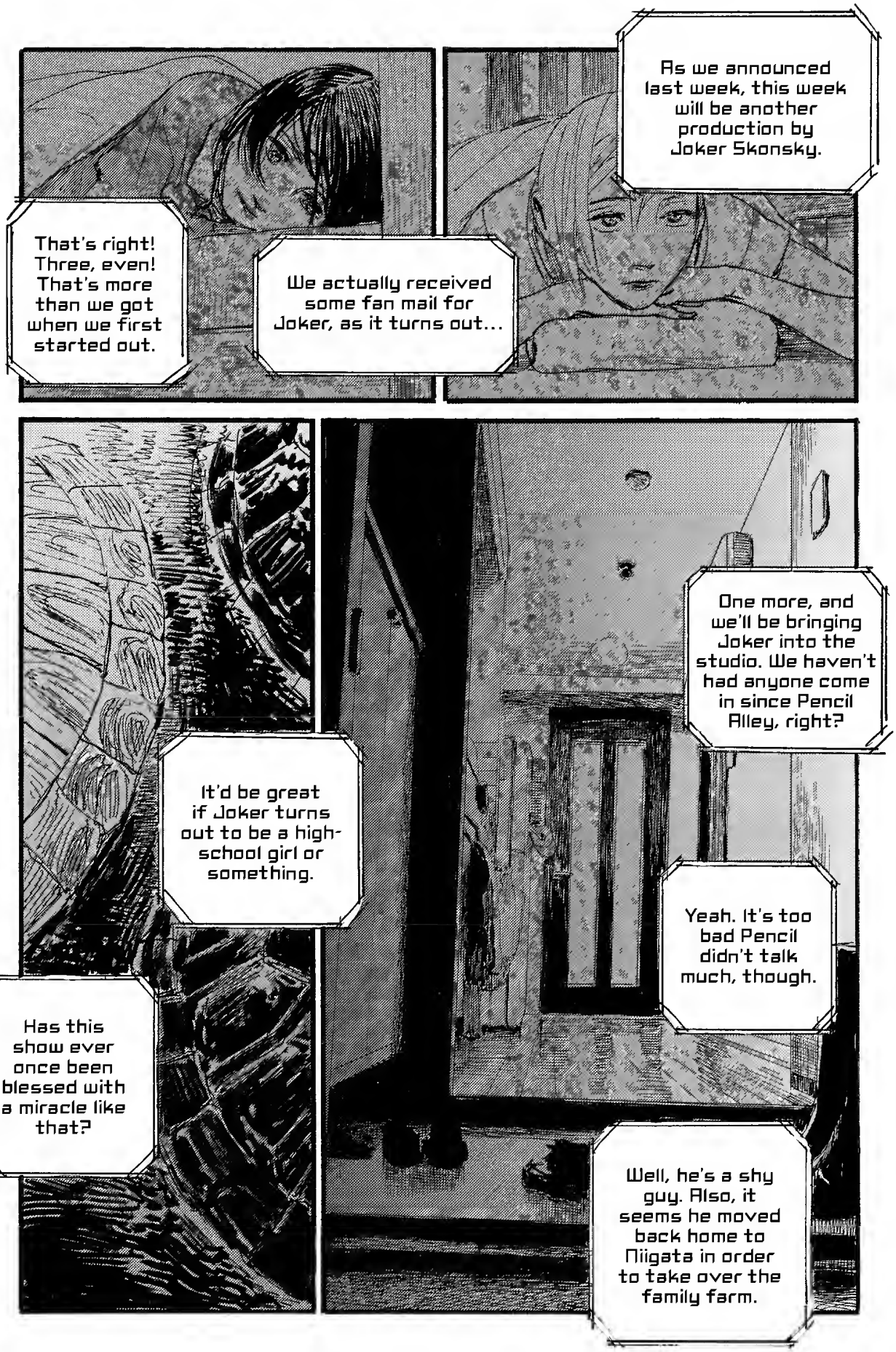
MINARE.
I TOLD YOU ABOUT HCB'S NO HUNTING BADGER HOUR, DIDN'T I?
DID YOU LISTEN TO IT?


WHY NOT TRY MIMICKING THEIR STYLE?

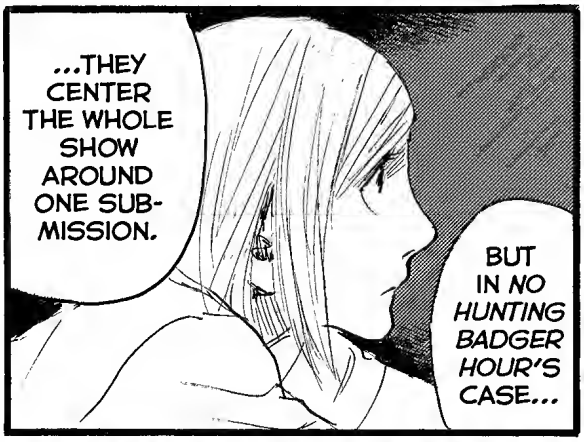

DESPER-ATE TIMES CALL FOR DESPERATE MEASURES.
DON'TCHA THINK THAT'LL BE HARD WITH MY SHOW?
AHH... THAT, HUH?

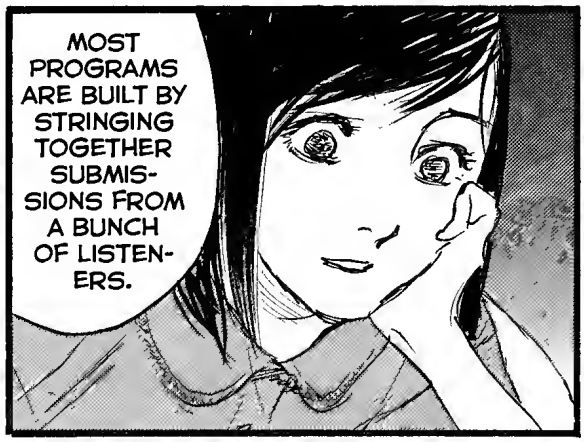
MAYBE IT'S ABOUT TIME FOR YOU TO SURRENDER YOURSELF TO YOUR FATE AS A RADIO PERSONALITY, WHO WITHOUT ANY LIS-TENERS, HAS NO SHOW.

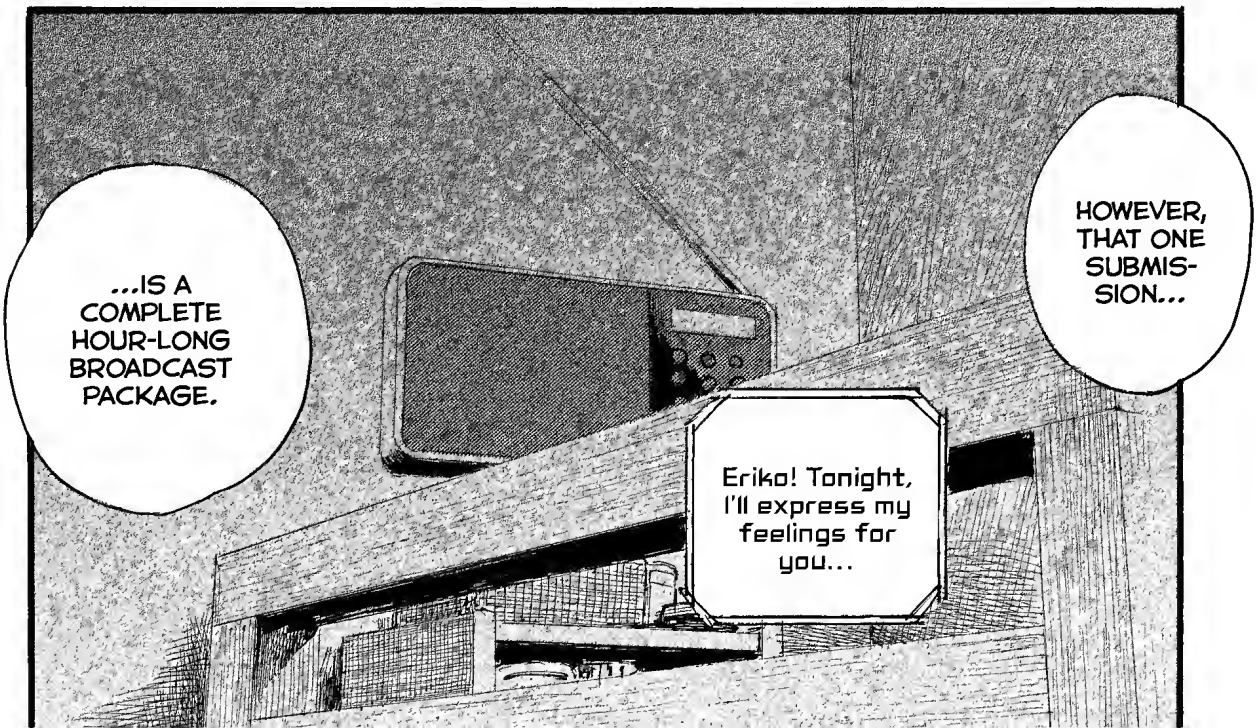
Good evening, everyone! It's time for the *No Hunting Badger Hour*!
I'm your host, the minister of gout, Badger Taizou...
...joined by the prince of chronic hernias, Badger Jiro.


That's right! Three, even! That's more than we got when we first started out.
We actually received some fan mail for Joker, as it turns out...
As we announced last week, this week will be another production by Joker Skonsky.
It'd be great if Joker turns out to be a high-school girl or something.
Has this show ever once been blessed with a miracle like that?
One more, and we'll be bringing Joker into the studio. We haven't had anyone come in since Pencil Alley, right?
Yeah. It's too bad Pencil didn't talk much, though.
Well, he's a shy guy. Also, it seems he moved back home to Niigata in order to take over the family farm.

THIS JOKER SKONSKY GUY'S PRETTY GOOD, HUH?
THEY HAVE A PECULIAR WRITING STYLE. I THINK THEY'LL BRING THEM INTO THE STUDIO EVENTUALLY.
Now then, for our first reading of the night, *Sestina*...


...THEY CENTER THE WHOLE SHOW AROUND ONE SUB-MISSION.
BUT IN *NO HUNTING BADGER HOUR'S* CASE...


MOST PROGRAMS ARE BUILT BY STRINGING TOGETHER SUBMIS-SIONS FROM A BUNCH OF LISTEN-ERS.

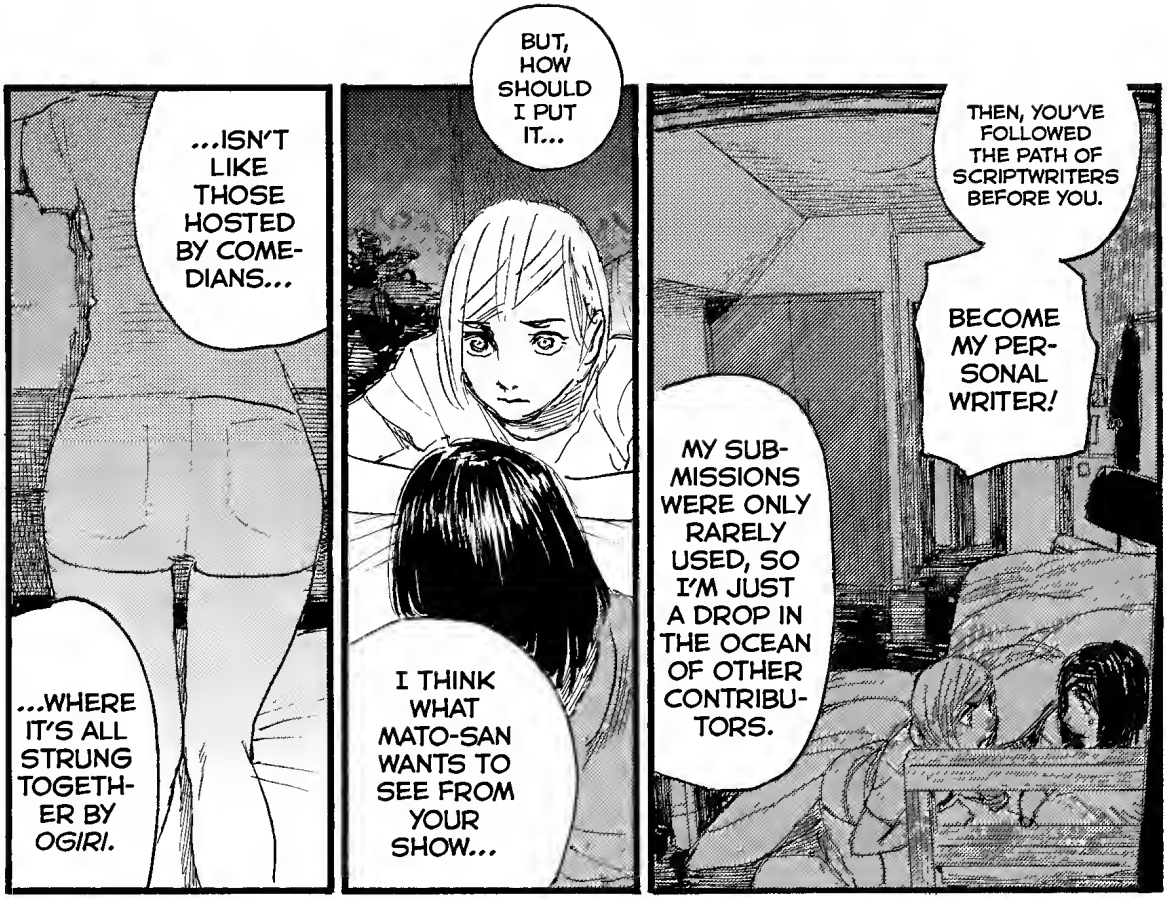

...IS A COMPLETE HOUR-LONG BROADCAST PACKAGE.
HOWEVER, THAT ONE SUBMIS-SION...
Eriko! Tonight, I'll express my feelings for you...

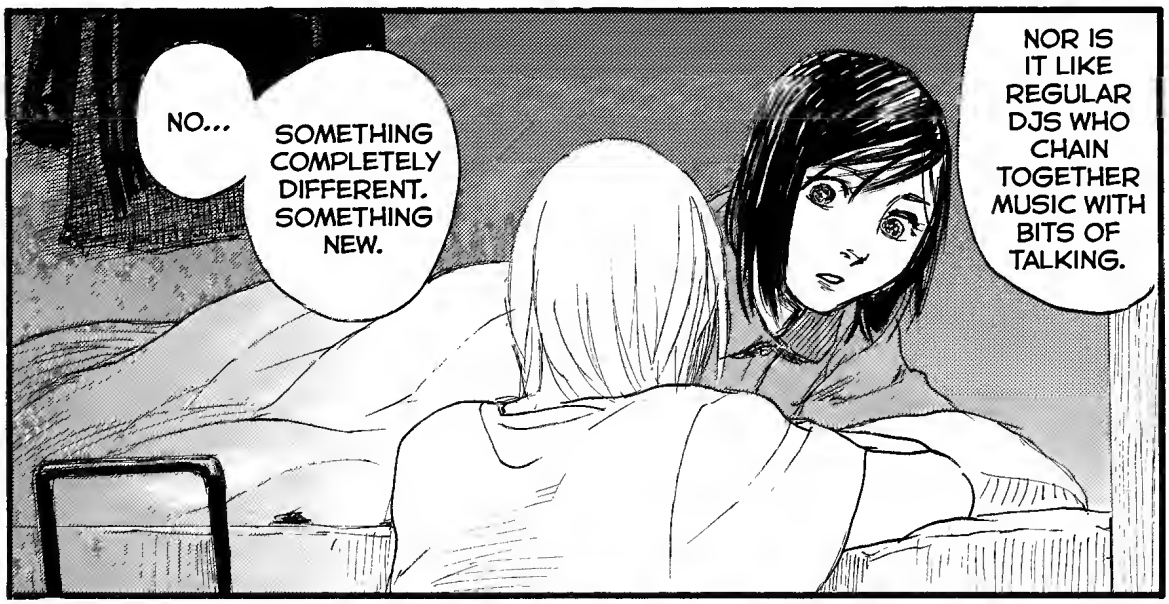
*OGIRI: A TYPE SEGMENT IN WHICH LISTENERS SEND IN RESPONSES TO A PREVIOUSLY GIVEN THEME. ANSWERS CAN BE BOTH COMEDIC AND PROFOUND.

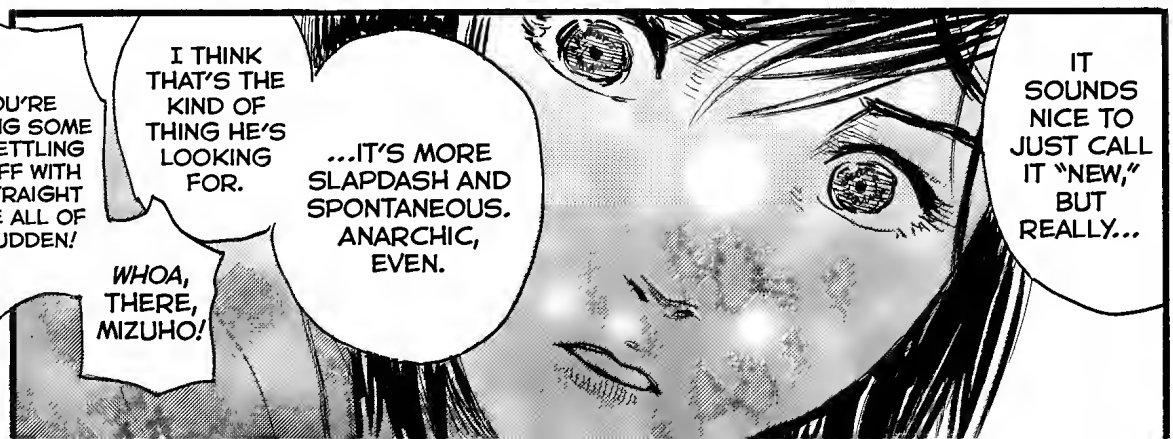
HUH? YEAH.
YOU KNOW THE COMEDY DUO, O?
Enough already! How many lines are you gonna sing?!
Let me finish. There are only 155 lines left.
AMONG THE LISTENERS FOR THEIR SHOW, ALL-NIGHT JAPON...
...THERE WAS A VERY TALENTED CONTRIBUTOR WHO WROTE IN REGULARLY.
HIS TALENT CAUGHT O'S EYE...
...AND THEY CALLED OUT TO HIM OVER THE AIR AND SUGGESTED THAT HE MOVE TO TOKYO AND WORK WITH THEM AS A WRITER.
SOME TIME LATER, THAT LISTENER DID MOVE TO TOKYO AND ENDED UP WRITING A NUMBER SCRIPTS FOR O.
WELL...HE ENDED UP MOVING BACK HOME DUE TO RELATIONSHIP REASONS, THOUGH.
UH-OH.
Is that the Greece national anthem or what?!
THEY SAY THERE ARE COUNTLESS DIFFERENT WAYS PEOPLE END UP BECOMING BROADCAST WRITERS OR SCRIPT-WRITERS...
...BUT IT'S MOST COMMON FOR THEM TO BE FORMER CONTRIBUTORS.

YOU COULD PUT IT THAT WAY.
SO, IT'S LIKE AN AUDITION FOR WRITERS?
THIS SHOW MIGHT BE TRYING TO SYSTEMATICALLY BREED THOSE KINDS OF PEOPLE.
You've changed, man. You never used to be the kind of person who judged people by the color of their skin.
Clothes! I'm talking about the color of people's clothes here!
OHH! I'D LIKE TO LISTEN TO THAT!
MATO-SAN ASKED ME IF I WANTED TO TRY THIS KINDA FORMAT FOR MY SHOW.
EPOXY RESIN
I'M NOT SURE IT FITS FOR A 20-MINUTE SEGMENT ON A LATE-NIGHT RADIO SHOW.
EVEN THOUGH THAT CUP SAKE SHREW SAID IT'S ONLY A MATTER OF TIME BEFORE WRITERS DIE OUT.
BUT THINKING ABOUT IT SOME MORE, I REALIZE THIS HAS MEANING AS A SHOW DONE BY COMEDIANS WHO CAN RECRUIT WRITERS FOR THE TV BUSINESS.
AT FIRST, I THOUGHT, "EUREKA!"
EPOXY
The hell are you doing, wearing a shirt that looks like Lush* soap when your face looks like a stock photo.
*A COSMETICS COMPANY BASED OUT OF THE UK.

I THINK PEOPLE WILL STILL WRITE IN EVEN WITHOUT THE HOPES OF BECOMING A WRITER OR GETTING CALLED INTO THE STUDIO.
REALLY, HAVING YOUR EMAIL READ IS REWARD ENOUGH.
...MAYBE SO, BUT WOULDN'T I JUST BE A DOWNSIZED VERSION OF *NO HUNTING BADGER HOUR* IN THAT CASE?
I've still got 158 lines left. Think you'll make the last train?
Next year, maybe.
PFF.
HE, HE.
THAT WAS A PRETTY GOOD JOKE.
NAH, I THINK THAT WAS MORE THE BADGERS' SPIN THAN ANYTHING.
I have three canker sores in my mouth right now.
Y'KNOW,
THIS BRINGS BACK MEMORIES OF WHEN I WROTE INTO *OGIRI* ON A SHOW CALLED *TRAFFIC LIGHTS & SEQUINS* IN HIGH SCHOOL.
YEAH? EVER HAD YOURS READ?
ONLY VEEERY OCCA-SIONALLY.


...ISN'T LIKE THOSE HOSTED BY COMEDIANS...
...WHERE IT'S ALL STRUNG TOGETHER BY *OGIRI*.
BUT, HOW SHOULD I PUT IT...
I THINK WHAT MATO-SAN WANTS TO SEE FROM YOUR SHOW...
THEN, YOU'VE FOLLOWED THE PATH OF SCRIPTWRITERS BEFORE YOU.
BECOME MY PERSONAL WRITER!
MY SUBMISSIONS WERE ONLY RARELY USED, SO I'M JUST A DROP IN THE OCEAN OF OTHER CONTRIBUTORS.


NO...
SOMETHING COMPLETELY DIFFERENT. SOMETHING NEW.
NOR IS IT LIKE REGULAR DJS WHO CHAIN TOGETHER MUSIC WITH BITS OF TALKING.

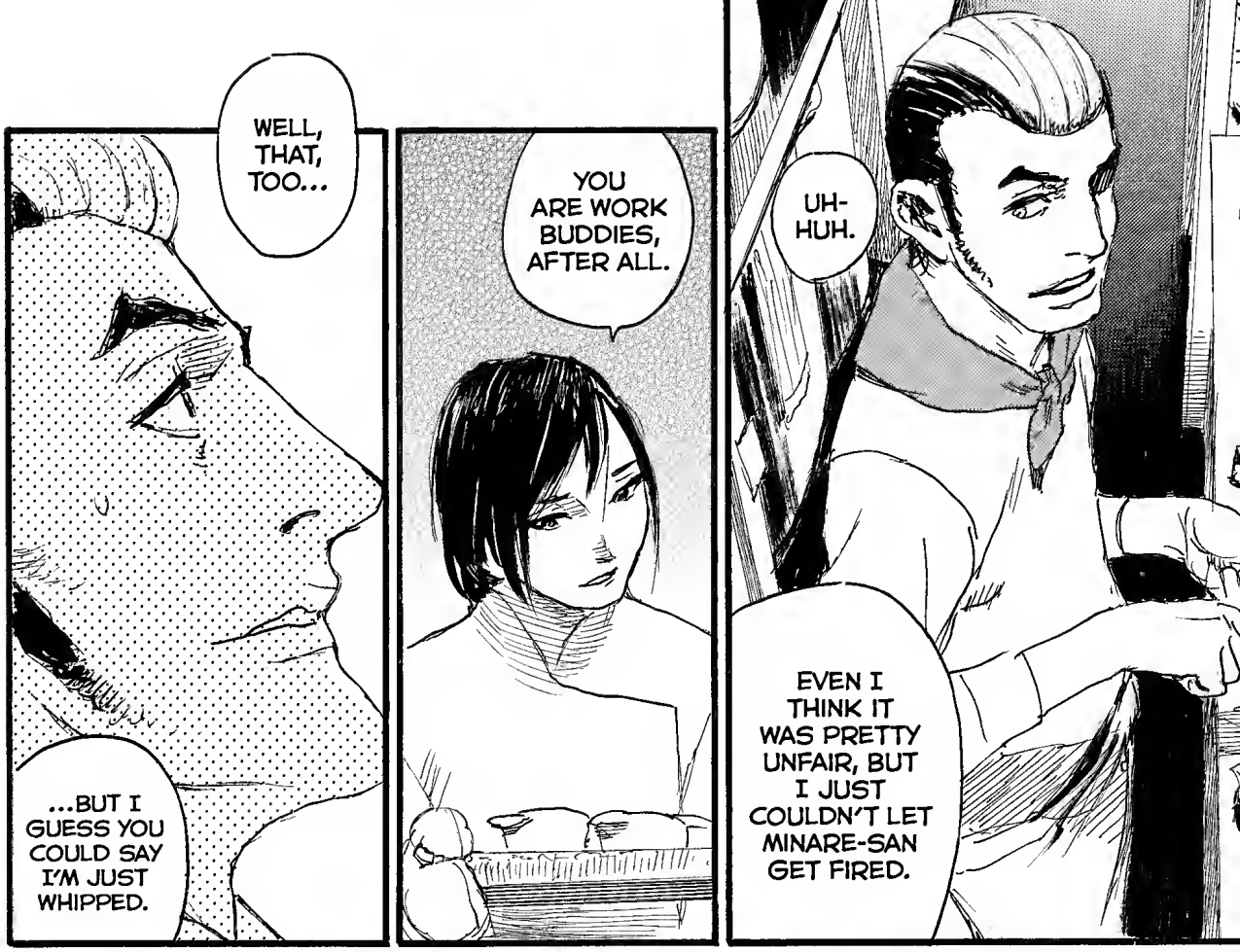

YOU'RE SAYING SOME UNSETTLING STUFF WITH A STRAIGHT FACE ALL OF A SUDDEN!
WHOA, THERE, MIZUHO!
I THINK THAT'S THE KIND OF THING HE'S LOOKING FOR.
...IT'S MORE SLAPDASH AND SPONTANEOUS. ANARCHIC, EVEN.
IT SOUNDS NICE TO JUST CALL IT "NEW," BUT REALLY...

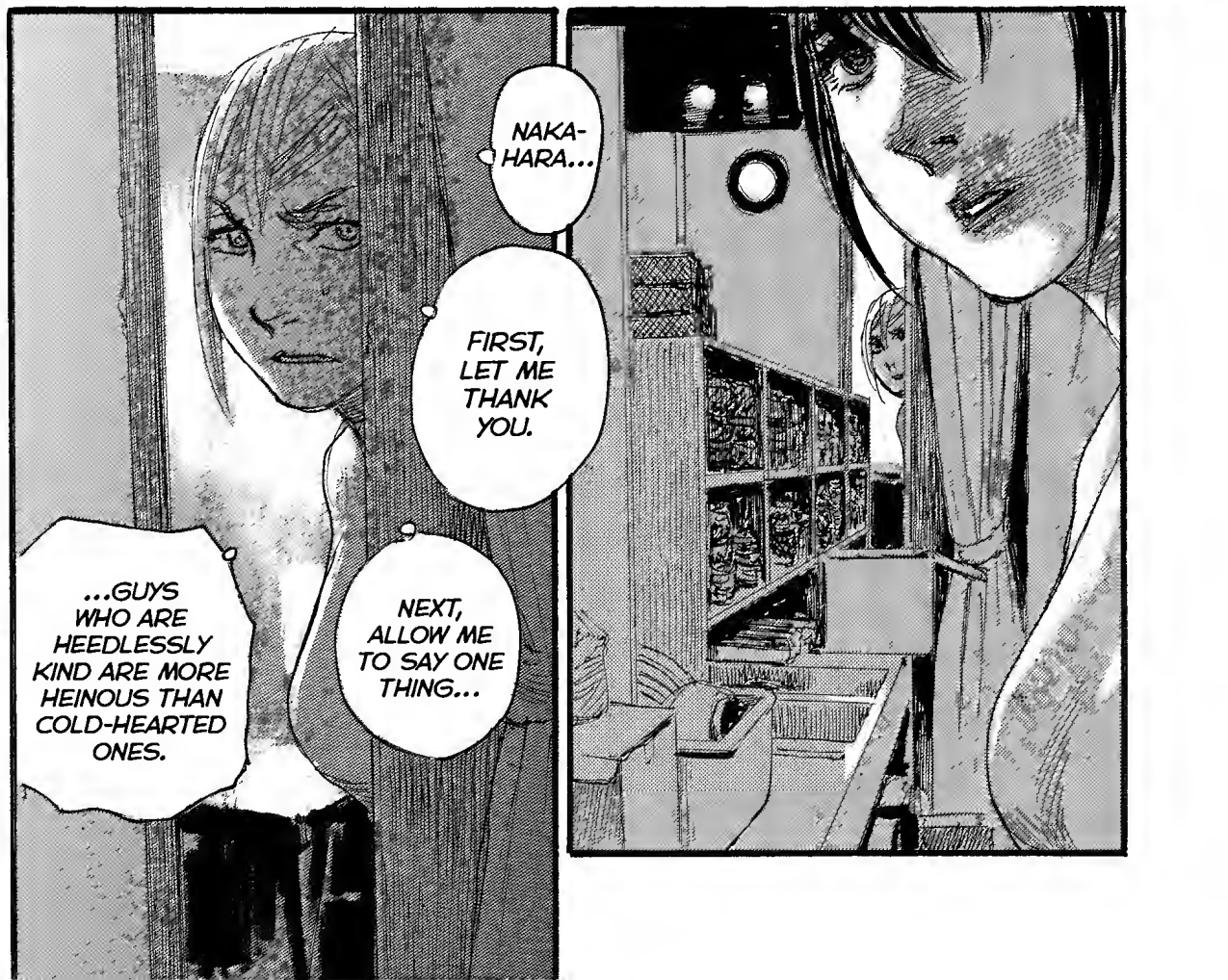
VOYAGER
VOYAGER
WELCOME!
ONE MANGO LASSI, AND...

THIS IS GREAT. FEEL'S LIKE WE'RE A SQUAD WITH FIVE PEOPLE HERE. THE STORE'S RUNNIN' LIKE A WELL-OILED MACHINE.
HEY, BOSS. WE SHOULD HIRE MORE PEOPLE AND WORK OUT SHIFTS EVENTUALLY.
TALK ABOUT EASY-GOING...
WEI
魏
SHU
蜀
WU
呉
DO YOU NOT SEE THIS TRIPARTITE WORKPLACE?!
*A REFERENCE TO THE THREE KINGDOMS OF CHINA, A BLOODY PERIOD BETWEEN THE HAN AND JIN DYNASTIES.
KODA-SAN, A WORD, PLEASE.

...YOU WANT TO WORK IN RADIO...
...BUT YOU DON'T WANT TO STOP WORKING HERE.
IS THAT RIGHT?
SO, FROM WHAT I UNDER-STAND...
UM... I KNOW IT SOUNDS LIKE I'M BEING VERY SELF-CENTERED...
...BUT IT'S PRETTY NORMAL FOR FREELANCE RADIO SPEAK-ERS TO HAVE ANOTHER JOB ON THE SIDE.
I DON'T GIVE A DAMN ABOUT WHAT'S NORMAL FOR THE RADIO BUSINESS.
I'LL AGREE TO KEEP YOU ON, UNDER ONE CON-DITION.
IF YOU'RE GONNA MAKE ME BE YOUR MISTRESS, THEN I WANT A RAISE, TOO.
I'D SOONER BUY A GIRAFFE FOR A PET THAN TAKE YOU AS A MISTRESS!
GIRAFFES POOP LIKE TEN TIMES MORE THAN I DO.

SO, HERE. WOULD YOU USE IT FOR YOUR OPENING JINGLE OR WHATEVER?
MY NEPHEW MAKES MIDI MUSIC AS A HOBBY.
HE SAYS HE'D BE THRILLED IF HIS OWN SONGS WERE PLAYED OVER THE AIR.
SONY
BCB
WAIT, REALLY?!
LIKE I HAD MUCH OF A CHOICE...
OKAY...
THAT'S ALL.
NAKA-HARA-SAN.
I HEARD YOU THREATENED TO QUIT IF KODA-SAN WAS FIRED.
HE WENT AND USED HIS TRUMP CARD ON ME.


EVEN I THINK IT WAS PRETTY UNFAIR, BUT I JUST COULDN'T LET MINARE-SAN GET FIRED.
UH-HUH.
YOU ARE WORK BUDDIES, AFTER ALL.
WELL, THAT, TOO...
...BUT I GUESS YOU COULD SAY I'M JUST WHIPPED.


NAKA-HARA...
FIRST, LET ME THANK YOU.
NEXT, ALLOW ME TO SAY ONE THING...
...GUYS WHO ARE HEEDLESSLY KIND ARE MORE HEINOUS THAN COLD-HEARTED ONES.